

SUBJECT: Contribution to  
Palestine.

REPORT NO: 105

PLACE ACQUIRED: Khartoum, Sudan

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SOURCE: [ ]

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1. Following the announcement of the Palestine Partition Scheme, the Sudan Central Committee for aiding Palestine was established at Omdurman under the active leadership of the Sudan Graduate Congress. Although the Unity with Egypt Parties were most eloquent in demanding immediate and unrestricted assistance to their "Moslem Brethren" in Palestine, all parties received with sympathy the call for aiding Palestine. When the organization of the committee was finally completed, a wealthy Jew of Omdurman with relatives in Palestine, H. COHEN, and a wealthy Syrian as well were among the members of the eleven-man committee. Another prominent Jew, Ibrahim ABRAHAM, lent moral support and financial assistance to the movement.

2. The Committee tackled first the task of making secretory collections in behalf of the Palestinian Arabs. Meetings were held in provincial towns; collection results were gradually made known and the receipts were sent to the Committee headquarters in Omdurman. By the end of February 1948 Athens District had reported already upwards of £E 1000; Karcina district donated £E 300 and in Gadaraf, the people gave £E 350. Through the enterprise of the Sudan Graduate Congress' collection of funds was aggressively conducted in Khartoum and in adjoining Omdurman. Branch committees circulated from shop to shop and in the business district the maximum was exacted from Greeks, Jews, Armenians, Syrians and others under the implied threat of future reprisals. Englishmen appeared to support this movement to the extent of making donations.

3. At a meeting of the Sudan Graduate Congress on 5 March 1948 it was announced that Ahmed Kamal GHAZI, President of the Fellahin Party of Egypt, would shortly arrive in the Sudan with other members of his party to intensify the drive for helping Palestine. The speaker emphasized that Egypt's participation in the movement for helping Palestine was on a large scale and included contributions of arms, money, and men. In addition, he said, an Egyptian Red Crescent Unit had entered Palestine, complete with doctors, nurses, drugs and medicine. The speaker exhorted

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5. On 21 March 1948 an urgent message was received at the office of the Sudan Central Committee. Mr. J. H. M. [unclear], on behalf of the Arab Higher Committee, requested the sum of money thus far collected. Thereupon the Sudan Central Committee met on 24 March and entrusted £10,000 for immediate shipment to the financial secretary of the Arab Higher Committee in Cairo. Accusations within the Sudan Central Committee revealed that part of the proceeds of the collections had been diverted for supporting the current Sudan railway strike.

4. Although COTV failed to enter the Sudan, the Secretariat of the Sudan Arabists Congress completed plans for setting up a recruiting office independent of the Sudan Central Committee. This recruiting office had been anticipated and within three weeks of its final organization more than 300 volunteers had registered for service in Palestine. These were mostly former ~~Sudan~~ Sudan Defense Force soldiers, who volunteered for lack of employment rather than any patriotic motives. Rates of pay were fixed at £25. per month for an ordinary soldier, with proportionate increases for higher ranks. Arms and equipment were to have been provided by the Cairo Palestine Committee. Some drilling of these men, in military fashion with parade arms, took place in the desert outside of Omdurman. Word was sent to the Cairo office of the Arab Higher Committee, that the first contingent of Sudanese volunteers was ready to move into Palestine.

In declining this offer an emissary of Haj Amin al-Husseini, ex-ambassador of Jerusalem, stated that Ahmad el-Harithi, head of the Arab League's Military Committee, had recently presented military assurances for the defense of Arab Palestine, and Arab volunteers by the thousands according to ~~himself~~ him the Arabs had already built an army of more than 75,000 men within Palestine, and the recruiting office was from every Arab state had to be refused. Thereupon the 500 volunteers in Khartoum were officially disbanded and the recruiting office was closed. Sudan Arabist Congress sources indicate that stragglers are crossing daily into Egypt in the hope of enlisting there for service in Palestine.

5. On 21 March 1948 an urgent message was received at the office of the Sudan Central Committee. Malik Abdurrahman al-Khatib, on behalf of the Arab Higher Committee, requested the sum of money then for collected. Thereupon the Sudan Central Committee to the financial secretary of the AUE sent 10,000 for immediate shipment to the Sudan Central Committee revealed that part of the proceeds of the collections had been diverted for supporting the current Sudan railway strike.

*(To Grand Jury)*  
Barrabas, in a telegram sent 30 March 1948, the Sudan Graduate Committee advised that, in the deep recesses of the Sudanese people for the Arab struggle in Palestine. The Sudanese are determined, the message stated, that Palestine shall remain purely an Arab State, promising also that another 25,000, will be further sent shortly.

6. Additional meetings and street demonstrations were held throughout the month of March. At the Graduate Congress on 22 March a speaker stated that Mustafa al-Nakhr, commander-in-chief of the Arab forces, has established his headquarters in the same village from which he operated during the 1936 rebellion, against the British. He informed his listeners by adding that Palestine's mountains are sheltering the army of the Arab liberation which is ready to strike against the Jews. The following day when the withdrawal of the United States from the Palestine scheme was made known, the speaker assailed Russia for declining to support partition. He accused Russia of attempting to wreck American-Arab friendship and interfering in the Arabian oil supply problem.

7. In a street demonstration at Abbas Square in Khartoum late in February 1948, a speaker of the National parties had accused the Sudan Administration of sheltering 1000 Moslems at Kilo 4. Applying this statement, the speaker al-Falastini of Khartoum carried on a tirade adding that these Moslems were accommodated at Kilo 4 in two camps called the British and Jewish camps. Members of the Jewish camp allegedly had been providing military training. In denying this statement, the British Ambassador in Khartoum supported an Egyptian plot to discredit the government. (Note: This is the same camp where, later in March, the American University of California Moslems stopped for two weeks of the conference of these embassies appears to have been conducted.)